

OCT. -02' 02 (WED) 10:19

P. 003

#7B/BM
10-7-02

Attorney's Docket No. II-124B-R&D

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Dube *et al.*
Appl. No.: 09/624,820
Filed: July 25, 2000
For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Confirmation No.: 7464
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: D. Walls

October 2, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

The following is offered as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed May 2, 2002. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claim 5.

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, and 23 as follows:

B¹

1. (Twice Amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article, comprising:
providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of a reducing sugar and a hydroxide;
subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to produce a flavorful caramel composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 150°C;
applying said flavorful composition to a tobacco leaf or cut filler made thereof; and
preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco leaf or cut filler.

B²

10. (Amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article, said method comprising:

RTA01/2124035v1

Received from < > at 10/2/02 10:19:27 AM [Eastern Daylight Time]

FAX RECEIVED
OCT 03 2002
GROUP 1700
OFFICIAL

07/2002 BRURPHY 00000001 16083
C:116 400.00 CH